

THE
UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
AND
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
AND
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
AND
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF NAMING AND RELEASE OF 'SCHWENDIMAR'
THICKSPIKE WHEATGRASS,
Elymus lanceolatus Scrib. & Smith ssp. *lanceolatus*.

'Schwendimar' thickspike wheatgrass *Elymus lanceolatus* Scrib. & Smith ssp. *lanceolatus* is a seed propagated grass cultivar recommended primarily for quick stabilization of coarse textured soils in droughty areas. Secondary use is for Pacific Northwest rangeland restoration and grazing.

Origin: Thickspike wheatgrass is common to much of western North America. 'Schwendimar' is a native perennial grass that was collected on a site east of The Dalles, Oregon near Celilo Falls, by John L. Schwendiman in 1934 and selected by elimination of aberrant plants during several generations. Bulk selections of 'Schwendimar' were increased under isolation at the Pullman Plant Materials Center. The SCS plant accession number is 9006633; also known as P-1822.

Description: 'Schwendimar' is a vigorous, blue leafy rapid spreading productive strain. Foliage and culms are glaucous with only partial pubescence on the lemma. Seed production is fair to good but produces some sterile florets. It shows some resistance to leaf and stem rust. Chromosome number is $2n = 28$ (USDA Agr. Handbook #170 1965).

Areas of Adaptation: 'Schwendimar' is adapted to medium to coarse textured soils which are neither strongly acidic nor alkaline, precipitation range less than 8 inches to 20 inches, and an elevation range from 500 feet to 5000 feet. Its geographic range may include the northern intermountain region and dryer areas of the northern Rocky Mountains.

Performance: 'Schwendimar' has been evaluated by SCS and others since 1936 at many locations. The majority of trials have been located at Lind, Central Ferry, and Pullman, Washington and Bridger, Montana.

A total of 56 accessions of thickspike wheatgrass were screened in plantings prior to 1968 and 108 accessions were evaluated in an IEP in 1979 at Pullman, Washington.

'Schwendimar' consistently performed as good or better than other accessions in seedling vigor, biomass production, and establishment year ground cover.

'Schwendimar' has performed better than 'Critana', the only released thickspike wheatgrass cultivar, in trials conducted at semiarid sites in Washington.

'Schwendimar' thickspike wheatgrass did not represent a threat to wildlife or domestic animals or natural ecosystems in the USA while in the SCS-PMC evaluation process.

'Schwendimar' has not exhibited, in PMC studies, any toxic qualities or characteristics that would negatively impact natural or induced ecosystems.

Increase and Distribution: Breeder's, Foundation, Registered, and Certified seed classes will be recognized. Breeder's seed will be available from the Pullman Plant Materials Center, Pullman, Washington. Foundation seed will be available through the Washington State Crop Improvement Association.

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